

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A microbicidal composition comprising a synergistic mixture, the first component of which is 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone, and the second component of which is one or more commercial microbicides selected from the group consisting of benzoic acid, sorbic acid, 1,2-dibromo-2,4-dicyanobutane, 1,3 dimethylol-5,5-dimethylhydantoin, phenoxyethanol, zinc pyrithione and climbazole; wherein ~~the ratio of the first component to the second component is from 1/0.001 to 1/1000~~ a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to benzoic acid is from 1/0.13 to 1/67, a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to sorbic acid is from 1/4 to 1/133, a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to 1,2-dibromo-2,4-dicyanobutane is from 1/0.4 to 1/100, a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to 1,3 dimethylol-5,5-dimethylhydantoin is from 1/0.06 to 1/80, a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to phenoxyethanol is from 1/2 to 1/800, a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to zinc pyrithione is from 1/0.0013 to 1/13, and a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to climbazole is from 1/0.05 to 1/24; and wherein the composition is substantially free of halogenated 3 isothiazolone.

Claim 2 has been cancelled.

3. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein the second component comprises sorbic acid and the ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to sorbic acid is from ~~1/2 to 1/150~~ 1/4 to 1/67.

Claims 4-6 have been cancelled.

7. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein the second component comprises zinc pyrithione and the ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to zinc pyrithione is from ~~1/0.001 to 1/20~~ 1/0.0013 to 1/13.

8. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein the second component comprises climbazole and the ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to climbazole is from 1/0.03 to 1/30 1/0.05 to 1/24.

9. (Original) A microbicidal composition comprising a synergistic mixture, the first component of which is 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone, and the second component of which is one or more commercial microbicides selected from the group consisting of citric acid and benzyl alcohol; wherein the ratio of the first component to the second component is from 1/8 to 1/24 when the second component is citric acid; wherein the ratio of the first component to the second component is from 1/0.13 to 1/32 or from 1/80 to 1/1600 when the second component is benzyl alcohol; and wherein the composition is substantially free of halogenated 3 isothiazolone.

10. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting the growth of microorganisms in a locus comprising introducing to, at or on, the locus a microorganism inhibiting amount of a synergistic mixture the first component of which is 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone, and the second component of which is one or more commercial microbicides selected from the group consisting of benzoic acid, sorbic acid, 1,2-dibromo-2,4-dicyanobutane, 1,3 dimethylol-5,5-dimethylhydantoin, phenoxyethanol, zinc pyrithione and climbazole; wherein the ratio of the first component to the second component is from 1/0.001 to 1/1000 a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to benzoic acid is from 1/0.13 to 1/67, a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to sorbic acid is from 1/4 to 1/133, a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to 1,2-dibromo-2,4-dicyanobutane is from 1/0.4 to 1/100, a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to 1,3 dimethylol-5,5-dimethylhydantoin is from 1/0.06 to 1/80, a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to phenoxyethanol is from 1/2 to 1/800, a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to zinc pyrithione is from 1/0.0013 to 1/13, and a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to climbazole is from 1/0.05 to 1/24; and wherein the composition is substantially free of halogenated 3 isothiazolone; and wherein the

amount of synergistic mixture is from 0.1 to 10,000 parts per million active ingredient.

11. (New) The composition of claim 9 wherein the second component comprises citric acid and a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to citric acid is from 1/8 to 1/24.

12. (New) The composition of claim 9 wherein the second component comprises benzyl alcohol and a ratio of 2-methyl-3-isothiazolone to benzyl alcohol is from 1/80 to 1/400.